and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, as amended in 1987, before setting up of industries.

(iv) Industries have been directed to install pollution control equipment within the specified time schedule as per consent orders issued by the Pollution Control Boards.

(v) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(vi) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

**Sxcise duty refund claims of M/s. Nirma chemical works, Gujarat**

854. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1689 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 1989 and state the details of refund claims of excise duty of M|s. Nirma Chemical Works, Gujarat for the calendar years 1980 to 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): During the calender years 1980 to 85, only one refnd claim has been filed by Nirma Chemical Works Ltd, Gujarat. The details thereof are as under:—

| Date of filing the claim | Amount claimed in Rs. | Action taken |
|---|---|---|
| 16-10-85 | 3,28,125 | Amount of Rs. 2,75,459 has been sanctioned on 6-4-87. |

**Premium on new five hundred rupee currency notes**

855. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press report to the effect that the new five hundred rupee currency notes are available at a premium; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Fifty lakh pieces of Rupees five hundred denomination notes were issued to Reserve Bank of India for putting into circulation from October, 1987. Shortage has developed owing to constraints in the printing of fresh notes. Higher incentive payments have been offered to the workers in order to facilitate faster printing of these notes.

**Investment by non-resident Indians**

856. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Maharashtra Chief Minister recently went abroad to meet Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to canvas to invest in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government are aware of the details of the commitments, proposals and interest shown by the Non-Resident Indians;

(c) whether Goverment propose to allow NRIs to invest in India in real estate, land development and acquisition of houses;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to follow-up these matters and assist the State Government; and

(e) if so, what extent and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, investment by Non-Resident Indains is not permitted in real estate and land-based activities on commercial basis.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.